

Formal consultation on a proposal to expand Morecambe Road School through the development of additional teaching space on the school site and through the creation of satellite provision at Lancaster and Morecambe College and to change the designation of the school.

May 2022

This is the statutory proposal to make a prescribed alteration to a school in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

We are seeking your views about a proposal to expand Morecambe Road School, Morecambe Road, Lancaster, Morecambe, LA3 3AB.

We are also seeking your views about our proposal to redesignate Morecambe Road School as school for children with generic learning difficulties. The school is currently designated as a school meeting the needs of children with moderate learning difficulties.

We want to assure you that we will give careful consideration to all your comments and opinions.

We have used the feedback that was given during the informal consultation, carried out between 18 March 2022 and 1 April 2022, to develop our plans about the expansion of Morecambe Road School.

This formal consultation is a legal requirement that we need to do in order to make a change like this to the school.

What are we planning to do?

Morecambe Road School is a special school for pupils with moderate learning difficulties between the ages of 3 and 16 years. We propose to expand the number of special school places by 34. 22 of these places will be within the existing school site through building work on the main school site and 12 places will be in the satellite provision at Lancaster and Morecambe College is 0.3 miles (less than 2 minutes) away from Morecambe Road School.

We are also proposing to redesignate the type of special educational needs that the school is registered to meet to a designation of generic learning difficulties.

Why are we doing this?

To make sure we have enough special school places for all young people with special educational needs.

All special schools in Lancashire are over-subscribed. The expansion of Morecambe Road School will provide some of the 200 additional places in special schools that are needed at the moment.

Morecambe Road School is a 'Good' school.

Children already on the roll at Morecambe Road School will still be able to attend the school and should not experience any change in class size as a result of the increase to approved numbers.

How will we do this?

- By using accommodation and facilities already available at Lancaster and Morecambe College.
- The school will provide the funding needed for any building work needed to create more teaching space on the Morecambe Road School site
- The school will receive additional funding from the high needs block to provide support for any additional pupils that join the school, in line with the funding for places at specialist schools. This means the school should not be financially disadvantaged by the proposed expansion.

What have we done so far?

An informal consultation took place between 18 March 2022 and 1 April 2022 when we asked for the views of families of children and young people attending Morecambe Road School and Lancaster and Morecambe College. The views of staff, governors and other members of the local community for both Morecambe

Road School and Lancaster and Morecambe College were also sought during this consultation.

The written responses to the informal consultation were considered by Cabinet on 5 May 2022.

There were 30 responses to the informal consultation; 93% of respondents agreed with the proposal to expand Morecambe Road School.

Some concerns were raised in respect of the practical arrangements of operating the satellite provision and how this would affect individual pupils. Arrangements will be put in place to ensure the safe and supervised transfer of pupils between Morecambe Road School and Lancaster and Morecambe College.

In addition, all policies and procedures at Lancaster and Morecambe College satellite provision will be aligned with existing policies at Morecambe Road School. All pastoral and safeguarding responsibilities for the young people attending the satellite provision remain with Morecambe Road School.

Concerns were raised about whether the expansion would lead to increased class sizes.

The purpose of the building work is to increase the number of classes and maintain pupil numbers within each at their existing levels.

Concerns were raised about the change of designation of the school from moderate learning difficulties to generic learning difficulties, and the potential impact this might have on neighbouring special schools.

The change of designation will better reflect the more complex needs of children attending Morecambe Road School and supports the policy generally across the Authority.

What will happen next?

Careful consideration will be given to all responses that are received on or before 16 June 2022.

These responses will be used to provide information to Lancashire County Council Cabinet to allow councillors to make a decision about whether to agree the expansion of Morecambe Road School. The date of the cabinet meeting for this decision is 7 July 2022.

If the cabinet agreement is given the changes should be in place from 1st September 2022.

Have your say

We would like your views on this proposal. An event will be held at the school so that you can get more information and ask any questions you may have. Details about this will be available on the school website.

For your information and in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government regulations, all written responses may be disclosed to the public and could also be published on our website as background papers to any reports.

We are sorry that, due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal.

If you have any queries or require further information please contact the Inclusion Service by phone: 01772 531597 or email Inclusion.South@Lancashire.gov.uk,

QUESTIONNAIRE

We are proposing to expand Morecambe Road School by 34 places, 22 of these places will be within the existing school site. 12 places will be in the satellite provision at Lancaster and Morecambe College. Redesignate the type of needs to school is registered to meet, to a designation of generic learning difficulties.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase places on the existing school site ? *Please tick one option only*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to a satellite provision at Lancaster and Morecambe College ? *Please tick one option only*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to redesignate the type of special needs Morecambe Road is registered to meet; to generic learning difficulties? *Please tick one option only*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

About you

This final section is about you. It's a little more personal but is really useful to us. By answering these questions, you will help us to understand the views of different groups of people. If there are any questions that you'd rather not answer, please tick 'prefer not to say', or leave it blank and go on to the next question.

Are you responding to this proposal as...?

Please select one option only

- Parent/carer of a pupil currently at Morecambe Road School
- Parent/carer of a future pupil at Morecambe Road School
- Member of staff at Morecambe Road School
- School governor at Morecambe Road School
- Parent/carer of a student currently at Lancaster and Morecambe College
- Parent/carer of a future student at Lancaster and Morecambe College
- Student at Lancaster and Morecambe College

- Member of staff at Lancaster and Morecambe College
- Governor at Lancaster and Morecambe College
- Member of the local community
- Other

If other please write in the box below

Are you...?

Please select one option only

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

What was your age on your last birthday?

Please select one option only

- Under 16
- 16-19
- 20-34
- 35-49
- 50-64

- 65+
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

Please select one option only

- White
- Black or black British
- Asian or Asian British
- Mixed ethnic background
- Any other ethnic background
- Prefer not to say

Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Please select as many as apply

- Yes, learning disability
- Yes, physical disability
- Yes, sensory disability
- Yes, mental health disability
- Yes, other disability
- No
- Prefer not to say

Are there any children or young people in your household with special educational needs?

Please select as many as apply

- No
- Yes, aged under 5
- Yes, aged 5-11
- Yes, aged 12-15
- Yes, aged 16-17
- Prefer not to say

What is your home postcode?

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Business Intelligence,
Lancashire County Council,
PO Box 100,
County Hall,
Preston PR1 0LD

Thank you for completing the questionnaire